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an hour after midnight. Its brightness is so great that it may be made out at the beginning of the two-months period. During May and June it moves 11° eastward and 4° northward in the eastern part of the constellation *Pisces*, rather a barren region of the sky.

Saturn is gradually moving around to a more convenient position for observation. It rises a little before 2 A.M. on May 1st, at about midnight on June 1st, and before 10 P.M. on June 30th. It is in the constellation *Capricorn*, and moves about 1° eastward until June 1st, and then begins to retrograde, reaching a position at the end of June almost the same as it had on May 1st.

Uranus is now getting into position for evening observation, rising before 11 P.M. on May 1st and at about half-past 6 on June 30th. It is in opposition on June 19th, and is then above the horizon throughout the night. It retrogrades or moves westward about 2° , and is in the western part of *Sagittarius*, a little north and west of the group known as "the milk-dipper."

Neptune is in the western sky in the evening, in the constellation *Gemini*. It reaches conjunction with the Sun on June 27th.

VARIABLE STARS.

BY ROSE O'HALLORAN.

V Cassiopeiæ.

1903. Eleven observations, distributed between the 17th of August and the 14th of September, showed that in a 4-inch lens this variable was on the verge of invisibility, which is generally the stage of 12th magnitude. Fainter stars are undiscernible except on very clear, calm nights. September 16—Much more distinct. October 12—Between 9th and 10th magnitude, and distinctly brighter than the star just adjacent to it.

Y Cassiopeiæ.

The last maximum of this star was observed as follows:—1903. August 27—Scarcely of 11th magnitude, but distinctly seen below *b*, classed as 10.2. August 31, September 2, 8, 9—Ditto. September 13—Nearly equal to *b*. September

16—Fully equal to *b*. September 29—About 9.7; brighter than *b*; equal to *m* and *n*. October 28—Brighter than *b* or *d*; equal to *m* and *n*. November 6—Equal to *b*.

W Cassiopeia.

1903. June 24, 26, 29, 30; July 1, 2, 3, 6, 13, 19—About 10th magnitude. July 23—Declined to 10.3 magnitude. July 31—10.6 magnitude. August 16, 23—11th magnitude. August 29, September 2—11.3 magnitude. September 9, 14—Not discernible in haze. September 16—12th magnitude. September 29, October 18, November 6—Invisible.

In the *Companion to the Observatory* the minimum was predicted for October 18th. On this occasion it was probably fainter than 12th magnitude.

W Lyræ.

The last maximum occurred more than a month in advance of the predicted date, October 30th, as follows:—

1903. July 6—Not visible with high power in clear moonlight. July 11—Scarcely as bright as 12th magnitude, but distinct in high power. July 24, 25—Of 11.5 magnitude; fully equal to *t*. August 2, 5—Equal to *p*, of 9.4 magnitude. August 22—Of 8.7 magnitude; between *e* and *a*. September 6—Of 8.1 magnitude; brighter than *a*, equal to *n*. September 23—About two tenths brighter than *n*. October 5—In moonlight *W*, *a*, and *n* seem equal. October 13—The variable seems two tenths dimmer than *n*. October 18—Scarcely of 9th magnitude; between *a* and *p*, but nearer to latter. November 1—Equal to *p*. December 23—Scarcely of 12th magnitude.

1904. January 5—Not visible; morning clear. January 20—Ditto; probably less than 12th magnitude.

R Cygni.

1903. From June 25th to August 29th *R Cygni* was looked for in vain, but on October 18th was seen to be about 8.5 magnitude. November 1—Of 9th magnitude.

S S Cygni.

1903. Two maxima of *S S Cygni* were observed between July 23d and September 14th. July 23, 9.25 P.M.—Brighter than *a* or *c*; less than *b*. July 24, 9 P.M.—Nearer to *b*. July 25, 9.15 P.M.—Between *c* and *b*; nearer to *c*. July 30, 8.40 P.M.—Nearly equal to *b*; much brighter than *c*; night dim.

August 1, 8.40 P.M.—Not so near *b*, but brighter than *c*.
August 2, 8.35 P.M.—Decreased, but still brighter than *c*.
August 5, 8.30 P.M.—Less than *b*, *c*, or *a*, but brighter than *d*. August 16, 17, 23, 29, 31; September 2, 8—No longer identifiable among the stars of 12th magnitude near its place.
September 9, 7.45 P.M.—Less than *b*; equal to *a* and *c*, which look alike to-night. September 13, 8 P.M.—Two tenths brighter than *a*. September 14, 7.50 P.M.—Still brighter than *a* or *c*. This constellation was lost to view after this date.

X Aquilæ.

1903. From June 25th to November 1st this variable was looked for on twenty-four clear evenings, but the faintest glimmer was undiscernible within some minutes of the place it occupies when visible. August 17th, the date of predicted minimum, was included. It was probably fainter than 12th magnitude.

R Tauri.

1903. December 8—Of 12th magnitude. December 22—11.5 magnitude. December 25, 26—10.5 magnitude.

1904. January 4—About 8.5 magnitude. January 6—Of fully 8th magnitude. January 11—About 7.7 magnitude. January 14—Seems slightly decreased. January 17—Of 8th magnitude. January 20—Rather brighter than 8th magnitude. January 22—Slightly decreased. January 23—Further decreased; scarcely of 8th magnitude. The previous maximum occurred in March, 1903.

(FORTY-SIXTH) AWARD OF THE DONOHUE
COMET-MEDAL.

The Comet-Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has been awarded to M. BORRELLY, astronomer, Marseilles, France, for his discovery of an unexpected comet on June 21, 1903.

The Committee on the Comet-Medal:

W. W. CAMPBELL,
CHAS. BURCKHALTER,
WM. M. PIERSON.
